

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01017 071031Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01
IO-14 SCS-06 CA-01 /062 W
-----036573 071037Z /21

P R 071000Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0719
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1017

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA AND ISRAELI DESK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TRAVEL ADVISORY

1. EL AL AIRLINES, NATIONAL AIRLINES OF ISRAEL, HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN BY A LABOR DISPUTE. LABOR ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV HAS INFORMED CONOFF THAT CHANCES OF SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE ARE GRIM AND THAT STRIKE MAY DRAG ON FOR A WEEK OR MORE.

2. EFFECT HAS BEEN THE STRANDING OF THOUSANDS OF TRAVELERS WHO HAD RESERVATIONS TO LEAVE ISRAEL ON EL AL. AVAILABLE SEATS ON OTHER AIRLINES HAVE BEEN QUICKLY SNAPPED UP AND LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS REPORT THAT EARLIEST RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE TO DEPART ISRAEL ARE FOR TRAVEL IN THREE WEEKS TIME. ADDED TO THIS ARE THE NORMAL LOCAL PROBLEMS WITH A CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF HOTEL SPACE AND THE FACT THAT TRAVELERS CANNOT LEAVE ISRAEL BY LAND UNLESS A JORDANIAN VISA HAS BEEN OBTAINED BEFORE ENTRY INTO COUNTRY.

3. CONGEN SUGGESTS THAT TRAVEL ADVISORY BE CONSIDERED URGENT
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AND THAT IT TERMINATE IN 30 DAYS.

4. DRAFT LANGUAGE: EL AL AIRLINES, THE NATIONAL AIRLINE OF ISRAEL, HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN BY A LABOR DISPUTE. IT IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME HOW LONG THE DISPUTE WILL LAST. THOUSANDS OF TRAVELERS IN ISRAEL WHO HAD EXPECTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON EL AL AIRLINES HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ON OTHER AIRLINES, AND FLIGHTS
DEPARTING ISRAEL ARE COMPLETELY BOOKED FOR THE NEXT THREE
WEEKS. TRAVELERS PLANNING TO VISIT ISRAEL SHOULD CHECK WITH
THEIR TRAVEL AGENT OR AIRLINE TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RESERVATIONS
TO DEPART THE COUNTRY ARE CONFIRMED AND WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.
TRAVELERS PLANNING TO TRANSIT ISRAEL AND DEPART THE COUNTRY
ON EL AL AIRLINES SHOULD MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.
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